

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 4, please replace the first three lines of the 6th paragraph with the following:

The problem underlying the present invention is solved in a sixth aspect by a method for the generation and/or identification of a nucleic acid binding to a target molecule, preferably of a nucleic acid ~~according to any of claims 6 to 14~~ which specifically binds L-ghrelin, comprising the following steps:

Clean copy:

The problem underlying the present invention is solved in a sixth aspect by a method for the generation and/or identification of a nucleic acid binding to a target molecule, preferably of a nucleic acid which specifically binds L-ghrelin, comprising the following steps:

On page 17, please replace the legend for Figure 19 with the following:

Fig. 19 shows calculated secondary structures of D-ghrelin binding RNA spiegelmers clone B11 (SEQ ID NO:7) and of the truncated clone B11trc (SEQ ID NO:37), the secondary structure was calculated with the program "rnafold" (Hofacker et al., 1994, Monatsh. Chem 125:167-188);

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Fig. 19 shows calculated secondary structures of D-ghrelin binding RNA spiegelmers clone B11 (SEQ ID NO:7) and of the truncated clone B11trc (SEQ ID NO:37), the secondary structure was calculated with the program "rnafold" (Hofacker et al., 1994, Monatsh. Chem 125:167-188);

On page 22, table to the left, seventh entry from the top, please replace with the following:

Group2 **30 39**
2.1 main clone
'SOT-R04-DR13-
A2

Clean copy:

Group2 **39**
2.1 main clone
'SOT-R04-DR13-
A2

On page 24, please replace the first full paragraph with the following:

Biotinylated rat D-ghrelin (amino acid sequence, H-Gly-Ser-Ser(octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-His-Gln-Lys-Ala-Gln-Gln-Arg-Lys-Glu-Ser-Lys-Lys-Pro-Pro-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg-OH) (SEQ ID NO:1) was custom synthesized by Bachem (Basel, Switzerland). The peptide that

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was used during the selection contains a biotin moiety at the C terminus to enable partitioning from unbound nucleic acid species employing the biotin-NeutrAvidin interaction.

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Biotinylated rat D-ghrelin (amino acid sequence, H-Gly-Ser-Ser(octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-His-Gln-Lys-Ala-Gln-Gln-Arg-Lys-Glu-Ser-Lys-Lys-Pro-Pro-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg-OH) (SEQ ID NO:1) was custom synthesized by Bachem (Basel, Switzerland). The peptide that was used during the selection contains a biotin moiety at the C terminus to enable partitioning from unbound nucleic acid species employing the biotin-NeutrAvidin interaction.

On page 24, please replace the third full paragraph with the following:

DE.40-Pool: (corrected for RNA)

RNA-Pool: 5'-GGA GCT CAG ACT TCA CTC G TG-N₄₀-CA CGT ACC ACT GTC GGT TCC AC-3' (SEQ ID NO:2)

Rev. Compl.: 5'-GTG GAA CCG ACA GTG GTA CG TG-N₄₀-CA CGA GTG AAG TCT GAG CTC C-3' (SEQ ID NO:3)

DE.40T7: 5'-TCT AAT ACG ACT CAC TAT AGG AGC TCA GAC TTC ACT CG-3'
(SEQ ID NO:4)

DE.40R: 5'-GTG GAA CCG ACA GTG GTA CG-3' (SEQ ID NO:5)

Clean copy:

DE.40-Pool: (corrected for RNA)

RNA-Pool: 5'-GGA GCT CAG ACT TCA CTC G TG-N₄₀-CA CGT ACC ACT GTC GGT TCC AC-3' (SEQ ID NO:2)

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Rev. Compl.: 5'-GTG GAA CCG ACA GTG GTA CG TG-N₄₀-CA CGA GTG AAG TCT GAG
CTC C-3' (SEQ ID NO:3)

DE.40T7: 5'-TCT AAT ACG ACT CAC TAT AGG AGC TCA GAC TTC ACT CG-3'
(SEQ ID NO:4)

DE.40R: 5'-GTG GAA CCG ACA GTG GTA CG-3' (SEQ ID NO:5)